Officers in Terrorist Activities

3508. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the officers/officials of the Government suspended from service on the charges of their involvement in the terrorist, subversive activities during President's rule in Jammu and Kashmir alongwith the date of their dismissal or suspension;

(b) the details of such officers/officials reinstated and granted promotions after their re-instatement; and

(c) the number of officers/officials who were missing from their duties of late but they have not been dismissed from service, category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

CGHS Dispensary in Vasant Vihar

3509. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the site for CGHS dispensary building in Vasant Vihar has been taken over by CGHS from CPWD, if so, the date on which it was taken over;

(b) whether the boundary of barbed wire has also been got done by CGHS through CPWD on this site;

(c) if so, the time by which the construction work of CGHS dispensary building is likely to be started and the expected time of its completion; and

(d) the time by which the CGHS dispensary is likely to start functioning in Vasant Vihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (d) The Land and Development Authority/DDA regularly invite applications from the concerned agencies for indicating their requirements for institutional plots. It is in the context that CGHS, as a matter of long term policy, has taken steps to acquire plots in different locations in Delhi, including Vasant Vihar.

The plot allotted by the Land and Development Office has yet to be handed over to CGHS. In accordance with standing instructions barbed wire fencing is to be arranged for all such plots allotted, so as to protect them from unauthorized encroachment.

The matter of construction of a CGHS Dispensary at Vasant Vihar depends on the availability of resources and the fulfilment of CGHS norms.

Relations with New Zealand

3510. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether New Zealand have agreed to seek closer bilateral cooperation and greater interaction at regional fora;

(b) if so, whether any Indian delegation visited New Zealand and had discussion with the New Zealand Government;

(c) if so, the extent to which the ties between the two countries have improved;

(d) whether any agreement the two countries in respect of trade etc. have been signed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) India and New Zealand enjoy excellent bilateral relations and cooperation in diverse fields. As a part of New Zealand's current policy of forging deeper ties with Asia it has sought to develop closer cooperation with India also through the Asia 2000 Foundation meant to promote New Zealand Asia links. India and New Zealand have also of late been interacting in regional fora such as the ASEAN Regional Forum and ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference.

(b) Regular bilateral Foreign Office Consultations are held (Senior Officials Meeting) in which bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest are discussed. The last such consultations were held in May, 1997 in New Zealand. These consultations are held annually. Minister for Textiles, Shri R.L. Jalappa and Minister of State for Food Processing Industries visited New Zealand in February, 1997 and July, 1997 respectively and discussed matters of mutual interest.

(c) In recent years, ties between the two countries have further strengthened. Both countries are now closely cooperating in international and regional fora. Trade and investment relations are on the upswing. A number of joint collaborations and transfer of technology agreements in diverse fields have been concluded between Indian and New Zealand companies.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) (i) Trade Agreement; and

(ii) Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation.

These agreements were signed in October, 1986.

House Building Advance

3511. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether DDA and some other Government agencies are unable to meet the housing demand in Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to grant House Building Advance to its employees to purchase flats/ plots from prime builders particularly in Delhi;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The reasons for the inability of the Government agencies to meet the housing demands in Delhi are :

(i) Rapid growth of urban population of Delhi due to continuous immigration of people from other States;

(ii) scarcity of serviced land;

(iii) slow pace of acquisition of land due to legal and regulatory problems;

(iv) acute shortage of funds for development of infrastructural services and amenities;

(v) poor affordability of a large section of people to acquired legal shelter.

(c) to (e) No such particular proposal is under consideration as under the existing rules house building advance is admissible for purchase of ready built houses/flats from private parties also which include registered builders, architects, house building societies etc.

Subsidy Policy

3512. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has recommended the phasing out of subsidies;

(b) if so, whether Planning Commission during its meeting with various Chief Ministers on the Ninth Plan allocation impressed upon them the need to phase out such subsidies, especially those in power and water sector;

(c) if so, the extent to which the Chief Ministers have agreed to the proposal of the Planning Commission in this regard; and

(d) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken by the Government for phasing out the subsidies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNMALA D. SAVANOOR) : (a) Planning Commission has underlined that subsidies have become an important and growing component of public expenditures. Further the Commission has indicated that although it would not be desirable for the Government to maintain fiscal neutrality between rich and poor sections of society, whatever subsidy being extended should be transparent and closely targeted.

(b) to (d) During Ninth Plan discussions with Chief Ministers of various States, Planning Commission impressed upon them the need for recovering user charges and costs on services being rendered by the Government. Broadly Chief Ministers have agreed to look into the matters of subsidy and cost recovery in power and water sectors in right earnest. A definite time frame for taking a final decision for phasing out of subsidy has not been decided as on date.

Permanent Seat in UN

3513. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the latest move of the US in supporting India's case of membership in the UN Security Council is a welcome step;

(b) if so, whether the US has also taken a decision to provide limited said to Pakistan;

(c) whether both the decisions show that there is a change of attitude by the US in support of India;

(d) whether this is likely to help both countries to improve its relations; and

(e) if so, the steps the Indian Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) The latest US statement on the matter of membership in the UN Security Council mentions that, in principle, the US supports developing countries representation in the Security Council as permanent members. These new members could be either named or rotational. The US statement does not specifically name any developing country for permanent membership of the UN Security Council. The US has supported Germany and Japan as new permanent members.

(b) The US Senate has passed an amendment to the US Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, lifting some restrictions on US military and economic assistance to Pakistan, which had been put into place on account of Pakistan's externally assisted nuclear weapons programme. The amendment, if passed in to law after due process, would allow programmes relating to military training of Pakistani defence service officers and extension of Overseas Private Investment Credit (OPIC) and Exim Bank guarantees to US corporations engaged in projects in Pakistan.